No. 640 Twopence August, 1957

LIBRARY

THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

UNITARIAN CHURCHES IN HOLIDAY AREAS

Newport, Isle of Wight, by W. J. Carter

The present Chapel at Newport, I.W., which stands a little way back from the Lower High Street, opposite the County Hall, is the home of a small, but relatively ancient congregation. The exact date of its origin, indeed, is unknown. What is known, however, is that the Vicar of the Parish Church of St. Thomas, the Rev. Robert Tutchin, was ejected from his pulpit in 1662. The dissenting historian Calamy records that he "was so well beloved by the inhabitants of this town, that when he was turned out they allowed him the same stipend as when he was their minister, so that they paid two ministers to the day of his death, and then interred him in their church."

The earliest building of which anything is known was in Pyle Street and had a graveyard. It was already in use in 1728 when a Baptist trust-deed was drawn up which had among its signatories a number of people whose descendants were still members until very recent times. This chapel, the site of which is said to have been very inconvenient, was pulled down in 1774, when the present building was erected. The Baptist Congregation

referred to in the above-mentioned deed is believed to have been preceded by one which was also the ancestor of the present Congregational Church in Lower St. James' Street.

The present chapel was enlarged in 1885. The building was lengthened so as to give more seating accommodation both in the body and the gallery; a new staircase was built, as well as schoolrooms for boys and girls and a library. All this work was made necessary by a greatly increased attendance.

The baptistry was closed in 1875, when the chapel was re-seated and a new pulpit installed. The present schoolroom was built in 1881, while the organ dates from 1894.

The first minister was the Rev. Richard Clarke. The Rev. John Sturch (1751-94), author of the first historical account of the Isle of Wight, seems also to have been the first to preach distinctively Unitarian doctrines from the pulpit.

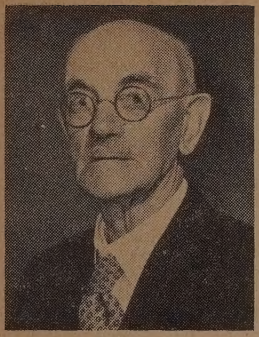
Some interesting details are recorded of the ministry of the Rev. Robert Aspland, editor of the Monthly Repository, which lasted from 1801 to 1805. When he visited the Island as a candidate the journey from London to Newport took two days. It required thirteen hours to get as far as Southampton, and the crossing to Cowes took from two to eight hours according to the circumstances of wind and tide. Aspland was struck by the diversity of views held among the members, but found them all "Liberal, candid and inquisitive." He was assured that he might go "from the highest pitch of Arianism to the lowest pitch of Unitarianism" without giving the congregation any uneasiness. On the day after his ordination the Southern Unitarian Society was instituted by the ministers and laymen present, the signatories including the Rev. Thomas Daldon the blind Vicar of Carisbrooke.

The enlargement of 1825 occurre in the ministry of the Rev. Edmun Kell (1923-53). At the re-opening o the church addresses were given b several visiting ministers. Amon them the Rev. Russell Scott, o Portsmouth, spoke of "The Corrup tions of the pure doctrines of Chris and his Apostles by their admixtur with the Platonic notions so pre valent in the first ages of the Chris tian church." Subsequently M Kell was minister at Southampton where he built the Church of th Saviour, which was destroyed b enemy action and replaced by new church opened last year and hall which commemorates hi name.

Like so many of our causes, tha at Newport has included among it members many distinquished citi zens. The present chairman, M W. A. Christy, has served as County Councillor, a Justice of th Peace, and twice as Mayor of Ryd Mr. Christy still has a seat on th County Council. His immediat predecessor, Lt-Col. S. Chatfeild Clarke, was also a County Councillo and an Alderman, will be remem bered by readers for his long servic as treasurer of the Genera Assembly.

TH R IS ON MISSING

"My typ writ r works quit w l xc pt for on of th k ys. It's tru th r ar 46 oth r k ys that func tion p rf ctly, but just on mak s big diff r nc . You may say to you s lf 'W ll, I am only on ; no on wi miss m if I don't go to Church th r ar oth rs to do th work.' Bu you ar miss d. Mayb th r a oth rs to do th work, but you a n d d. Wh n you think you 'wi not b miss d. r m mb r m typ writ r and say 'I am th k p rson; I am n d d; th r spo sibiliti s of th church ar m r sponsibiliti s too!"



UNITARIAN STALWARTS

No. 32, John Alfred Bolton, of Bristol

Anyone who requires the recipe for a happy life should apply to Mr. J. A. Bolton. He is in his 80th year and it appears that the number of years which he has devoted to Unitarian and other causes really adds up to one hundred and eighty at least—overlapping of course, but a record which gives him a worthy place among our Unitarian stalwarts.

The son of Unitarian parents who came to us from Methodism, he joined our church at Pudsey at the age of 17. Soon he was a teacher in the Sunday School, then deputy organist and secretary, and at length was awarded the Long Service Medal. In addition he served on the Chapel Committee including the office of secretary, and might still be doing so had he not come to live in Bristol in 1912, at the age of 35.

Here he found worthy scope in the Lewin's Mead Domestic Mission which he served in a number of ways until it was destroyed in 1940. Our chapels at Oakfield Road, Lewin's Mead and Frenchay also know him well, Lewin's Mead as a member of committee and Frenchay as secretary and then treasurer for thirty years, an office which he still holds.

His work in the Physiology Department of Bristol University, following similar work in Leeds, provided still wider forms of service and as a consequence the University Employees' Association, two Friendly Societies and the Bristol Microscopical Society, owe him much gratitude for his devoted work.

Now, undismayed by retirement, he has held office for seven years with the Filton Old Age Pensioners' Society. The society is a thriving one. On being introduced to this adopted son of Bristol there is no mistaking that he comes direct from Yorkshire, who may well be proud of her offspring.

It is not difficult to assess what part Mrs. Bolton has had in supporting this remarkable record, remembering that she was brought up at Mill Hill under the Rev. Charles Hargrove, and we are happy that their sons show every sign of following in their parents' footsteps.

In his own words: "I have had a very happy experience during my life and have thoroughly enjoyed it."

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

Sutton Park, Warwickshire
Nearest Unitarian Churches:

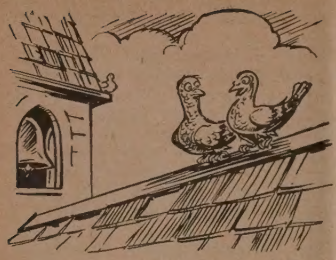
Walsall, 11 a.m.
Five miles from Streetly Gate.

West Bromwich, 6.30 p.m.
Nine miles from Town Gate.

Birmingham, 11 and 6.30.
Eight miles from Town Gate.

Bus services to each.

An old Scout, Rev. H. Maquire, at 102, Rectory Road, five minutes Scout pace from the Town Gate, is at the service of younger ones.



They say that the skiffle group is to accompany the service while the organist is on holiday.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

"All's well that ends well"

The Duchess decided to let bygones be bygones. She had recovered from the Summer Fair and stated that she would hold a Garden Party at Thingummy Hall to celebrate the success of the fair and to show that no ill-feelings remained. The Mayor heard this with dismay. It meant that he was to be there in an official capactiy; he wasn't sure that the Duchess *had* forgotten and forgiven; but *was* sure that something would go wrong. He then reflected that the Duchess herself would be in charge of arrangements, which was rather different—and he breathed more easily!

On the great day, tents and marquees went up, scores of tables, chairs, sunshades, deck-chairs arrived—and so, it seemed, did everybody from miles around! This time there was to be *no* ceremony on a platform! The arrival of the Mayor would be dealt with at the top of the steps leading to the front entrance—and nothing would collapse! So the Mayor arrived and was officially greeted; the Duchess said a few words, he said even fewer, and everyone waited for them before moving off. Unfortunately, the Mayor was still nervous and, in starting to descend the steps, he trod on his robe, tripped violently, hurtled through the air and with faultless marksmanship landed in a huge rainwater butt at the side of the steps! The displaced water drenched everybody, including the Duchess, and all waited for the Duchess to explode—even the Mayor, who emerged, sodden, from the butt. Silence reigned for perhaps half a minute; and then the Duchess began to laugh and continued laughing—great, hearty laughs, that no-one had heard from her for many a day. Relief gave way to infection and soon everyone was laughing merrily. Eventually, the Duchess controlled herself. "Now, come inside, all of you, before you catch cold. We'll dry out in no time. Oh, dear, that really was the *funniest* thing I have seen for years!" She grasped the Mayor firmly and propelled him indoors, followed by the soaked remainder. From then on, there was no doubt at all—the Party was a brilliant success. But perhaps we can sympathise a little with the Mayor as he reflected: "Why do these things seem to happen only to me?"

COMING UNSTUCK

By Joyce Hazlehurst

Recently at a Sunday School Exhibition I tried to show a flannelgraph of New Testament stories. In a flannelgraph, cut-out paper figures are backed with old blanket material and placed on a blackboard, also covered with blanket. Blanket sticks to blanket, and the figures remain where put. This had all worked splendidly until the great day. Then I dispensed with the blackboard, and pinned the blanket across a door with glass panels. The lack of a solid background made the blanket too precarious a resting-place... The six New Testament scenes, carefully labelled, became chaotic. Many figures dropped off and lay on the floor, or else stared

grotesquely from the wrong places where well-meaning visitors had set them. Zacchaeus' tree took root in Martha and Mary's sitting room, and the cow from behind the Woman of Samaria's well was transported to the middle of the Sea of Galilee. A puzzled parent complained, "I can't understand it." The figures which would not stick to their right background had lost all meaning.

"There was I," a man said to me once, "sitting at home every Sunday evening when I could have been coming to Chapel!" It is wonderful to see individual lives caught up in religious enterprise; they gain new meaning. Together they tell a story of faith and hope and love which the passers-by can understand. But when the individual lives "come unstuck" from their true background, when they "drop off," they leave the story they might have told a confused jumble, and they lose their own purpose and high significance. The church exists to help people find their true background in God and their true fellowship with each other. Don't let us "drop off": if we do, not only shall we be grealy missed but we ourselves shall lose our place in a great adventure.

MODERN BEATITUDES

1. Blessed are those members who attend services regularly, get there on time, never let the weather or their friends keep them at home and invite others to go with them.

2. Blessed are those who do not send their children to church or Sunday School, but go with them.

3. Blessed are they who when asked to serve on a committee, do it gladly and with gratitude for the opportunity it gives them for human service.

4. Blessed are they who do not feel slighted if they have not been asked to do something, but offer their services to the minister or church officials.

5. Blessed are they who speak their minds in love at committee meetings and who can give and take criticism and at the same time keep alive their sense of humour.

6. Blessed are they who see that human service is going above and beyond the call of duty for love's sake and the sake of humanity.

7. Blessed are they who do not howl about how things should be done while they themselves do nothing.

8. Blessed are they who help to keep the work of the church going by their regular, sustained and constant giving.

9. Blessed are they who pray for their church, and offer themselves to God as answers to their prayers.

10. Blessed is the one who sees that "every member a worker" means not the other person but himself.

NEWS AND VIEWS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The summer meeting of the Council was held at Bell Street Mission, London, on June 28th, and reports from the departments were received and discussed. The Programme Sub-Committee has proposed the Rev. W. J. Carter, M.A., of Newport, I.o.W., as next year's Assembly Preacher. The autumn Council and the Recognition Service for new ministers will be held at KIDDERMINSTER on October 25th, when the address to the new ministers will be given for the first time by a layman, Dr. Stanley J. Kennett, of Liverpool.

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

The Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire held its annual meeting at STAND on June 19th, when the new chapel was greatly admired and excellent arrangements were made for the visitors.

THE CHURCHES

AFRICA. CAPE TOWN Church continues to advertise many attractive and challenging lecture subjects for

the Tuesday Luncheon Club and other organisations. Recent titles include: "Abstraction in Art," "Assurance and Insurance," "Music in South Africa," "Cerebral Palsy" (with film), and a lecture and recital by Mr. James Ellis. of St. Dunstan's who lost his sight in 1942.

BIRMINGHAM. For their anniversary WEST BROMWICH Sunday School chose all their hymns from Unitarian writers, on the theme "Our father's faith we'll sing of thee." Most of the tunes, too, were written by Unitarians.

CENTRAL POSTAL MISSION. At the annual meeting on June 13th progress during the year was reported and reference made to the possibility of a merger with the G.A. for publicity work. The Rev. W. Broadbent sketched church life in his two Suffolk Village Mission congregations. Rev. J. P. Chalk spoke on "What has Unitarianism to offer?" estimating our position in relation to present religious trends.

DUKINFIELD. The annual flower service was held on July 14th with gifts of flowers received from the young people.

HINCKLEY. The School Anniversary Services were conducted by the Rev. Maurice Bonner, of Gorton, who entered into the spirit of the occasion. The children sang the introit "Bring, O morn, thy music," composed by the organist Mr. A. G. Hydon; also "The Parable of the Mustard Seed," by the late organist Mr. Hugh Atkins, and other songs. The choir sang "From all that dwell below the skies." Owing to an accident to Mr. Hydon, Mr. H. F. Warren very kindly took over the duties of organist at very short notice. The singing reached a high standard, and credit is due to Mr. E. G. Ellis who conducted the children. The day's collections reached £94.

LEEDS. The newly-decorated chapel made an excellent setting for the All Faiths' Service on June 2nd when Dr. Bhatia gave a very fine address. The Children's Church enjoyed an outing to the Yorkshire Dales and the choir visited the Lake District.

LIVERPOOL. Over 200 people attended a meeting in the Royal Institution arranged by the L.D.M.A. to celebrate the 750th anniversary of Liverpool's first Charter. The Revs. R. W. Sorenson and Lawrence Redfern spoke on the contributions of past Unitarians in Liverpool to local and national civic development. A retiring collection was taken for the forward movement at SPEKE. GATEACRE Youth Club has adopted a new constitution, confining membership to church attenders with gratifying results.

MACCLESFIELD Women's League enjoyed an outing to Hardwick Hall. The annual collections for the East Cheshire Christian Union showed a considerable increase this year, amounting in all to £8 1s. 6d.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT WOMEN'S LEAGUE held its summer meeting at Knutsford on June 26th. Three hundred and seven members were present, representing 35 branches, and this number necessitated holding two successive services and two business meetings, with three sittings for tea. Mrs. Albert Smith conducted both services and Mrs. Whitehouse welcomed Miss Herford, the National President, who. with members of her branch combined a visit to Knutsford with the Manchester District Summer Meeting.

MANCHESTER. ALTRINCHAM Sunday School presented a pageant "How God speaks to men," for their anniversary afternoon service, and a repetition was requested and arranged for the "All-Present" evening service a fortnight later. BLACKLEY welcomed the Whitsuntide interdenominational service to the newly decorated chapel when a representative from each Sunday School spoke on "Witness." A Whitsun

outing to Todmorden was enjoyed. CHORLTON Sunday School enjoyed a visit to Ainsworth Chapel for its outing, and next day the second annual Animal Welfare Service was conducted in the forecourt of the church with an address by Mr. Arthur Thompson of the Humane Education Society who brought several horses and ponies to the services. Pony rides were given to the younger children afterwards. WYTHENSHAWE Sunday School presented a specially written demonstration service "Building the Tower of Life" at its anniversary conducted by the Rev. F. M. Ryde, M.A., of Bury.

STAND Chapel are to welcome the Rev. H. H. Cheetham, their former minister, on his visit to England from the U.S.A. in August. For their joint stall fund the Women's League and Senior Ladies held a Bring-and-Buy Sale on July 3rd when gifts of glass and pottery were requested.

NINE REASONS

For Going To Church By The Late Theodore Roosevelt

(1) A churchless community, where men have abandoned, scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on the rapid downgrade.

(2) Church work and church attendance mean the cultivation of the habit of feeling some responsibility for others.

(3) There are enough holidays for most of us. Therefore, on Sundays go to church.

(4) Yes, I know all the excuses. I know that one can worship the Creator in a grove of trees, or by a running brook, or in one's own home, just as well as in a church. But I also know as a matter of cold fact that the average man does not thus worship.

(5) One may not hear a good sermon at church. One will hear a sermon by a good man who, with his good wife, is engaged all week in making hard lives a little easier.

(6) One will listen to and take part in reading some beautiful passages from the Bible. If a person is not familiar with the Bible he has suffered a loss.

(7) One will take part in singing good hymns.

(8) One will meet and nod or speak to good, quiet neighbors. He will come away feeling a little more charitable toward all the world, even toward those excessively foolish young man who regard churchgoing as a soft performance.

(9) I advocate a man's joining in church work for the sake of showing his faith by his works.

THE INQUIRER
The weekly organ of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
Every Saturday, Price 3d.
Obtainable from Newsagents, Bookstalls, or your Church.
By subscription, £1 1s. 8d. per annum from "The Inquirer" Office, 14, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

THE LINDSEY PRESS
Religion in a Changing World: Unitarians State Their Faith
Nineteen numbers have been issued to date. The last three titles are as follows:
"The Gospels To-day," by L. A. Garrard, B.D., M.A.
"Freedom, Authority and Liberal Christianity," by F. Kenworthy, M.A., B.D.
"Can We Prove the Truth of Religion?" by Raymond V. Holt, B.Litt., M.A.
1/6 each, by post 1/8. Send for catalogue containing complete list in series.
The Lindsey Press, 15, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

CHRISTMAS CARDS for Bazaar Stalls. Send 1s. in stamps for sample packet of six cards to The Editor. Dunham Road Parsonage, Altrincham.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

The Rev. John Gill is to become resident minister at Wythenshawe in September with the joint charge of Sale and Wythenshawe congregations. Platt Chapel is now to be served by students of the Unitarian College.

The Rev. J. S. Hallam is resigning from the ministry.

The Rev. Dr. R. W. Wilde is still unable to return to work but was able to attend the annual meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship in July.

Pastor Clemens Taesler, founder of the German Unitarian Association and minister at Frankfurt has celebrated his 70th birthday.

Rev. L. Gribble, M.A., has been inducted to Chester and Wallasey.

Mr. D. Mills has become Lay Pastor at Dob Lane, Failsworth.

T.Y.U.

"The Young Unitarian" June issue was produced by the Waverley Road (Birmingham) branch of U.Y.P.L. and contained articles deploring and defending rock 'n' roll and other habits or tendencies of modern young people.

FAITH AND FREEDOM

This magazine has now completed ten years of publication under its first Editor, Rev. E. Shirvell Price. It has achieved a wide circulation at home and overseas with its appeal to liberal religious minds.

THE UNITARIAN, published by Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Annual subscription 4/-. Monthly orders, 50 copies 7/6, 100 copies 10/6 plus postage. *Business Manager:* G. HARRISON, 83, Mitford St., Stretford, M/cr. *Editor:* Rev. A. W. VALLANCE, Dunham Road Parsonage, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Northern Sunday School Federation

UNITARIAN HOLIDAY HOMES

Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire.

Telephone: Tideswell 218

There are still some vacancies for late August. Book now for September and October holidays. Reduced rates from October 1st.

Bookings to the Secretary.

THE MANCHESTER CREMATORIUM Ltd.

BARLOW MOOR ROAD, CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY

(Chorlton 3499)

The Books of Remembrance are on view and the Garden of Rest is open daily for visitors to bring flowers and sit awhile in the peace and tranquillity of this hallowed place.

For advice on cremation and the special remembrance services please write to the

MANCHESTER, CREMATORIUM LTD., 2, COOPER STREET, MANCHESTER, 2.

(Central 4596).

Printed by Nuneaton Newspapers Limited, Bond Gate, Nuneaton